

# Leonard Noisette

Leonard Noisette is the director of the Criminal Justice Fund at the [Open Society Foundations](#), US Programs. In this role, Noisette leads the foundation's efforts to reduce mass incarceration, end harsh punishment, and eliminate racial disparities and secure a fair and equitable system of justice.

Prior to joining Open Society Foundations, he was the long-time executive director of the [Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem](#), an innovative public defender office renowned for its development of community-based, holistic defense practices.

From 1999-2001, Noisette was a member of the [Executive Session on Public Defense](#), sponsored by the [Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) and [Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government](#). As a practicing public defender in New York City, Noisette represented clients at both trial and appellate level. He is an adjunct professor at [Fordham University Law School](#) and an active member of a number bar associations.

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